

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed September 27, 2004. At the time of the Final Office Action, Claims 1 – 15 were pending in this application. Claims 1 – 15 were rejected.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 - 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Laurenti, U.S. Patent No. 6,658,578.

Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the limitation of a list of interrupts that are designated as fast interrupts. Laurenti does not have a list of interrupts, led alone one that is designated as fast interrupts. Moreover, the Applicant respectfully traverses the examiner's assertion that the description of decode and fast devices in col. 152 corresponds to the list of fast interrupts as required by the limitations of independent claims 1 and 9. Moreover, where Laurenti did describe interrupts, there was no mention of a list of interrupts, nor was there any designation of one interrupt being fast (or otherwise distinguished). It is respectfully submitted that Laurenti does not have all of the limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 9, and thus independent claims 1 and 9 are allowable over the prior art of record. Moreover, the claims dependent upon independent claims 1 and 9, which also incorporate the same limitations as their parent claims, are also believed allowable over the prior art of record for the reasons cited above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection from independent claims 1 and 9, and their respective dependent claims, are respectfully requested.

All amendments are made in a good faith effort to advance the prosecution on the merits. Applicant reserves the right to subsequently take up prosecution on the claims as originally filed in this or appropriate continuation, continuation-in-part and/or divisional

applications.

Applicant respectfully requests that the amendments submitted herein be entered, and further request reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections, and that there be an early notice of allowance.

SUMMARY

In light of the above amendments and remarks Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicants believe that there are no fees due in association with the filing of this Response. However, should the Commissioner deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner accept this as a Petition Therefor, and direct that any and all fees due are charged to Baker Botts L.L.P. **Deposit Account No. 50-2148, (formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.) Order Number 068354.1438.**

Respectfully submitted,

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